

## REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action it is acknowledged that Claims 2-9 and 16 would be allowable except for their dependence on rejected Claim 1. In this regard, however, Claim 1 has been amended herein to include patentable distinctions over the prior art.

Particularly, Claim 1 now requires a color image reading apparatus including a “first optical means, inserted in a second optical path between the object and said imaging means, for temporarily imaging the object in a sub-scanning direction in said second optical path”. As amended Claim 1 also now requires “a slit disposed in the path between said first optical means and said imaging means, at a position where said first optical means temporarily images the object”. This latter limitation was taken from previous Claim 7, which has now been cancelled. The purpose of Applicants’ invention is to prevent crosstalk of color information in an image reading apparatus. If a slit 56 is arranged in the vicinity of an original surface (such as 51 in conventional Figs. 3 and 4) a highly accurate mechanical construction is required. However, in accordance with Applicants’ invention the requirement for such an accurate arrangement is lessened, as described at Page 36, line 23 through Page 37, line 7 of the Specification.


It is noted that Claim 11, as previously presented, included these same limitations as referred to above, and that Claim 11 was rejected in the above-identified Office Action as being obvious in view of the cited Fujimoto patent. In this regard, however, the disclosure of Fujimoto differs from the above-quoted requirements of Claim 1 because Fujimoto does not provide for temporary image formation in the sub-scanning direction. For this reason, a highly accurate arrangement, for the purposes of Applicants’ invention, is required in Fujimoto. Accordingly, Fujimoto cannot be said to recognize the problem or the solution which forms a basis for Applicants’ invention. Moreover, the cited

Kanai and Minoura references also fail to recognize or solve the above-discussed problem of the prior art.

For these various reasons Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims should now be deemed to be allowable, and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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